

REMARKS

In the March 26, 2007 Office Action, claims 1-7, 9-19, and 21-24 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claims 8 and 20 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the March 26, 2007 Office Action, Applicant has amended the claims as indicated above. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-28 are pending, with claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7-9, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19-21, 23, 27 and 28 being the independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

On pages 2-5 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13-15, 17, 18 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,646,411 (Hirono et al).

On page 7 of the Office Action, the Office Action states "Hirono finds a detection value (column 1, lines 40-58)." However, Hirono et al discloses detecting the position of the rotor at column 1, lines 40-58. The signal 33 for indicating the position of the rotor is a counter-electromotive force bmf different from the output voltage of the inverter. When the signal 33 is gained from the counter-electromotive force bmf of the motor, the voltage on a three-phase line connecting the inverter and the motor is not the output voltage of the inverter. The inverter is usually out of conduction when measuring the counter-electromotive force bmf. Additionally, the counter-electromotive force bmf is not the voltage command value. The claims now recite a voltage command value. Support for

this amendment can be found, for example, at page 16, line 15 of the specification, where it is stated that "a voltage command is supplied to the inverter 4."

In regards to claims 2 and 14, on pages 2 and 4, the Office Action cites column 1, lines 57 and 58 and Step S6 of Figure 2a in Hirono et al. The control of the current is carried out based on the flag set or the detected current (judgment in steps S10, S12, S14 and S16 of Figure 2b and rotational speed control according to steps S11, S13, S15, S17 and S18 of Figure 2b), not for controlling the current of the inverter in priority to the suppression of the rotational speed variations. Furthermore, Hirono et al does not disclose suppressing the rotational speed variations of the motor.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages 6 and 7 of the Office Action, claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirono et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,422,331 (Ochiai et al), and claims 4, 7, 16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai et al.

The Office Action has cited Ochiai et al to show output torque. Referring to column 3, lines 18-26 of Ochiai et al, a control signal is output to operate the motor so as to adjust an existing value of the motor torque to match a demanded value of the motor torque (steps S69-S72). Referring to steps S65-68 described at column 13, lines 12-41, the technique indicated in steps S65-68 is for decreasing torque to zero and safely ending the control of the motor 2, not for suppressing the variation of the rotational torque.

Moreover, Applicant believes that dependent claims 11 and 12 are allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claim 1, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they

include additional limitations. Thus, Applicant believes that since the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the invention as set forth in independent claim 1, the prior art of record also fails to disclose or suggest the inventions as set forth in the dependent claims.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 8 of the Office Action, claims 8 and 20 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. In response, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claim 7 into claim 8 and the subject matter of claim 19 into claim 20 to place them in independent form. Applicant has added new claim 27 which incorporates claim 6 and claim 8 into independent form and new claim 28 which incorporates claim 18 and claim 20 into independent form. Thus, independent claims 8, 20, 27 and 28 are believed to be allowable.


New Claims

New claims 25-28 are added by this amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 25 and 26 are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record. Specifically, Ochiai et al, which was cited to show output torque, does not disclose a decrease of amplitude of an output torque variation of the motor. Referring to steps S65-68 described at column 13, lines 12-41, the technique indicated in steps S65-68 is for decreasing torque to zero and safely ending the control of the motor 2, not for suppressing the variation of the rotational torque.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-28 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: July 18, 2007

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